(c) whether the meeting being rescheduled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) During the vist of the US Secretary of Defence Mr. William Perry to India in January 1995, it was agreed that there would be periodic consultations between the US Department of Defence and the Indian Ministry of Defence. These Policy Group meetings could include representatives from other Government agencies and departments from both sides as necessary No specific levels were formally identified. This in built flexibility in the arrangement enables the two sides to nominate officials as deemed appropriate and necessary from time to time. The Government of India considers the Policy Group to be a useful framework for co-operation and has conveyed to the US Government its intention to explore new avenues and levels of co-operation as well as to impart greater content and substance to existing ties between Indian and USA during the next meeting.

Expired sub-standard medicines in Defence Hospitals

802. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Defence Services Hospitals have been found using expired and sub-standard medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry into the supply and use of sub-standard medicines in the Services hospitals has been made by Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government against those found involved in the racket?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e) The Defence Services hospitals are not using/issuing any life expired or sub-standard medicines. As per the existing procedure the drugs and medicines are purchased by the Armed Forces Medical Services from the manufacturers registered with the Directorate General of Quality Assurance or the Directorate General of Health Services. The medicines purchased centrally are tested by the Quality Assurance Organisation and only after their acceptance they are released for consumption. In certain emergent situations, the Medical Store Depots make local purchases of medicines from registered firms and accept them on the basis of their claim. However, for ample precaution, some samples are sent for post laboratory testing. The drugs purchased in such emergent situation are issued without waiting for the results of the Laboratory test wherever undertaken. In majority of cases, the laboratory tests confirm the specified standards of medicines. In a small number of cases the medicines are not found to satisfy all the prescribed specifications. In such cases the medicines are returned to the suppliers for replacement or for recovery of the cost of medicines. In certain cases, restrictions are also placed on future purchases form such firms. Defective drugs once detected are not issued, but are destroyed locally on confirmation from the firm concerned.

Arrest of ISI agent

803. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ISI agent, who was residing in Jalandhar (Punjab) as an Indian, was arrested sometime in the last week of August, 1997 with secret IAF documents and its secret code and passwords;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made to identify his contacts in the IAF and also to know since when he has been carrying on with his spying mission in the IAF; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) On 19 August, 1997, Daniel Masih alias Peter Prakash, a Pak national trained by Pak ISI, was apprehended in the restricted area, on charges of espionage. Incriminating material relating to IAF was recovered from his possession.

However, no secret code or passwords were compromised.

(c) and (d) An IAF person has been identified as a source of his contact since late 1995. Both of them have been arrested by the Civil Police. Security measures have been beefed up at AF bases.

Proporation of GDP spent on Defence

804. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHNDRA REDDY: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of GDP spent by India on its defence;

(b) the proportion of GDP spent by Pakistan and China as share of their defence expenditure; and

(c) whether it is proposed to increase the country's defence expenditure in order to beef up its security?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) A statement is attached (*see* below)

(c) The Governments is committed to ensuring the security of the country against all threats and eventualities and to locate whatever human and material resources that are required to meet them.

Statement

The statistical data indicating the Defence expenditure as a percentage of the GDP spent on defence by India, Pakistan and China is given below:

Year	India Defence Expenditure as a % of GDP	Pakistan Defence Expenditure as a % of GDP	China Defence Expenditure as a % of GDP
1993	2.65	6.45	4.89
1994	2.44	6.09	4.05
1995	2.44	5.91	4.28
1996	2.33	5.64	3.82
1997	2.45	5.13	not available

(Source: 'Asian Strategic Review-1996-97'- Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses).

There is, however, an inherent drawback in such comparisons on account of different in the criteria used for classification and categorisation of defence expenditure by different countries. For instance, some countries show the expenditure on capital works and defence related industries under the budgetary allocations of Ministries/Departments other than Ministry of Defence.

The level of defence spending of countries may not necessarily reflect the influence of other factors such as combat expertise, training, morale and motivation and infrastructural resources which are essential elements of overall defence preparedness. Such factors do not lend themselves easily to comparisons on a like-to-like basis between different countries.

Report on India's debacle in 1962 war

805. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to make public Genral Handerson Report on India's debacle agaisnt China in 1962;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The Report prepared by Lt. General Handerson Brooks contains very sernsitive details relating to military operations. Even with the passage of time, the sensitivity thereof has not decreased. It will not, therefore, be desirable to make the Report public.

Modernisation of Defence Forces

806. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capabilities of Indian Defence Forces are being upgraded and modernised in view of the recent acquisition of lethal weapons by our neighbouring countries;

(b) whether the threat perception in the face of nuclear weaponry surrounding India has been taken into consideration while negotiating for acquiring weapons from Russia or other sources;